

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00122 111318Z
ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /025 W
-----116825 111541Z /53

R 111220Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2738
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME

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STATE FOR "A"-JOHN THOMAS, DAY MOUNT, A/SY, EUR/EX, OC/EX
BONN FOR RCO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, AFSP, ASEC, AFOP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: TDY COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL

REF: (A) WARSAW 140, (B) BONN 312, (C) 77 STATE 310147,
(D) 77 STATE 297094

1. THE AMBASSADOR, THE DCM AND THE ENTIRE STAFF OF THIS
EMBASSY REGARD WARSAW'S CABLE (140) AS ONE OF THE MOST
INSULTING AND REGRETABLE WE HAVE EVER SEEN, AND CONSIDER
THAT A PERSONAL WRITTEN APOLOGY IS DUE TO EACH OF THE
COMMUNICATORS INVOLVED.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND THE DEPARTMENT THAT AGAINST
A BACKGROUND OF NON-PROMOTIONS AND MANY OTHER PROBLEMS, THE
COMMUNICATOR CORPS HAS CONTINUED TO PERFORM DEDICATED DUTY--
AND CERTAINLY OUR STAFF IN STOCKHOLM RENDERS EXEMPLARY SERVICE.
MS. CATHERINE FITZSIMONS VOLUNTEERED TO FULFILL THE WARSAW
REQUIREMENT (ONE OF HER COLLEAGUES HAD FAMILY OBLIGATIONS,
THE OTHER A BROKEN LEG IN A CAST) AND CANCELLED HER HOLIDAY
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00122 111318Z

PLANS. AFTER THIS AND AFTER HER HARD SERVICE IN WARSAW, TO
BE REWARDED WITH AN UNJUST ACCUSATION OF MALFEASANCE IS IN
OUR OPINION UNTHINKABLE AND UNPARDONABLE. MS. FITZSIMONS'
CHARACTER AND BEHAVIOR ARE ABSOLUTELY BEYOND REPROACH, AND WE
RESENT STRONGLY WARSAW'S MESSAGE IMPLYING WRONGDOING.

3. IF WARSAW HAD ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS CONCERNING

EXPENDITURES DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, IT SHOULD HAVE SENT PRIVATE MESSAGES, SERVICE MESSAGES, OR SHOULD HAVE TELEPHONED. THE EFFECT OF THE ILL-CONSIDERED MESSAGE AT THIS EMBASSY WAS CONSIDERABLE, AND WE BELIEVE AN APOLOGY SHOULD BE SENT FORTHWITH.

4. THERE FOLLOWS MS. FITZSIMONS' OWN ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED. IF WARSAW OR THE DEPARTMENT HAS QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS MATTER, WE SUGGEST THAT PRIVATE MESSAGES BE SENT TO MS. FITZSIMONS DIRECTLY. WE WISH IT TO BE CLEAR THAT THE EMBASSY SUPPORTS MS. FITZSIMONS FULLY IN THIS MATTER.

5. MS. FITZSIMONS' STATEMENT:

(-) SHE ARRIVED IN WARSAW DEC. 21 WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT FULL PER DIEM WAS AUTHORIZED AND THAT SHE WOULD BE PAYING HER OWN HOTEL BILL. SHE EXCHANGED, AT THE EMBASSY, DOLLAR INSTRUMENTS FOR ZLOTYS IN THE AMOUNT SHE CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO COVER THE ESTIMATED COST OF ACCOMMODATIONS, FOOD AND SHOPPING. SHE DID NOT EXCHANGE AN UNUSUALLY LARGE AMOUNT FOR THIS PURPOSE.

(B) AS STATED IN PARA 2 OF REF (B) AND REF (C), MS. FITZSIMONS WAS AUTHORIZED GOVT FURNISHED QUARTERS AT REDUCED PER DIEM. THIS AUTHORIZATION WAS RECEIVED BY WARSAW ON DEC. 30. ALTHOUGH MANY EFFORTS WERE MADE TO RECEIVE DEFINITE ADVICE FROM ACTION OFFICE AFTER RECEIPT OF STATE 310147 AND WHILE THE EMBASSY WAS STILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 00122 111318Z

ON 24 HOUR DUTY, NO ADVICE WAS FORTHCOMING. AFTER CONSULTING WITH HER COLLEAGUES, SHE FOLLOWED THEIR EXAMPLE BY ADVISING THE HOTEL MANAGER OF HER INTENTION TO SIGN THE BILL "TO BE PAID BY U.S. EMBASSY, WARSAW". SHE ALSO ADVISED THE B&F OFFICER AND THE USDO OF HER ACTION.

(C) UPON TURNING IN HER SURPLUS ZLOTYS SHE WAS ADVISED THAT THE BOOKS WERE CLOSED. WHETHER SHE WAS TO BE REIMBURSED AT THE RATE OF 45 TO \$1 OR THE NEW RATE WAS OF NO CONSEQUENCE TO HER. IF FRAUD WAS INTENDED SHE WOULD NOT HAVE EXCHANGED \$110 WORTH OF ZLOTYS AT THE 45 TO \$1 RATE WITH EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL BEFORE TURNING THE BALANCE OVER TO THE USDO. ALL ZLOTYS TURNED IN WERE ORIGINALLY OBTAINED FROM THE USDO AND THE AMOUNT WAS NOT EXCESSIVE SINCE SHE ORIGINALLY OBTAINED THEM FOR HER EXPENSES AS EXPLAINED IN PARA 5(A).

6. SINCE BONN'S 312 HAS NOT EVOKED A RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT YET, MS. FITZSIMONS WILL HOLD IN ABEYANCE ANY FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS CONCERNING THIS TDY (E.E., SUBMISSION OF TDY VOUCHER, FORWARDING OF CHECK TO WARSAW AND CONVERSION OF ZLOTYS).
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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